



NISSAN ANNOUNCES PARTNERS IN LOGISTICS CENTER

Mississippi-based, minority-owned firm and Tennessee-based company create joint venture

SMYRNA, Tenn. (Dec. 7, 2001) – Today Nissan North America, Inc., introduced the two partner companies that will build and operate a new Supplier Logistics Center to support production at Nissan's vehicle assembly plant in Canton, Miss. **Integrated Management Services, PA (IMS)** and **Autrans Corporation** will create a joint venture named **IMS Autrans**, which will provide logistics services and light sub-assembly operations to suppliers of Nissan. IMS, a minority-owned company based in Jackson, Miss., will be the majority owner of IMS Autrans.

According to Emil Hassan, senior vice president, North American Manufacturing, Purchasing, Quality and Logistics, the Supplier Logistics Center is critical to Nissan's production strategy: "Our plan is to have suppliers assemble and deliver modules and components in the same sequence as the vehicles produced on our production lines. This center will provide services to support our just-in-time, in-sequence production requirements."

IMS Autrans will build a 200,000-square-foot facility on the Canton plant site in Madison County, Miss. The facility represents a capital investment of \$15 million. Construction of the new facility will begin in the first quarter of 2002. When fully staffed, IMS Autrans will employ up to 250 employees. From that facility, employees will provide:

- final assembly services for several suppliers that have manufacturing facilities located outside the state of Mississippi; and
- logistics services, including cross-docking, part kitting and sequencing for parts delivered to the Canton plant.

IMS Autrans' initial customers include Nissan suppliers Carlex Glass Co., AP Technoglass Co., Douglas Autotech Corp., Nissan Trading Corp U.S.A. and Yazaki North America, Inc.

(more)

IMS Autrans

“The Supplier Logistics Center will be an important link in the Nissan supply chain, and all of us at IMS are excited about the opportunity to take our place in Mississippi’s new automotive industry,” said John Calhoun, IMS president and chief executive officer.

“Our goal is to support Nissan production by ensuring perfect quality, proactive results and total customer satisfaction,” said Autrans Vice President Bob Landis. “We’re looking forward to this new venture and the opportunity to establish a business base in Mississippi.”

IMS, which is headquartered in Jackson, Miss., is a consulting, engineering and operations firm that provides engineering services, information technology, and operations and management services throughout the southeastern United States.

Autrans, which is based in Smyrna, Tenn., has provided services to Nissan and its suppliers since 1988. From its facility in Smyrna, Autrans provides assembly and logistics services, including repackaging, sequencing, cross-docking, EDI and inventory control support, for 220 suppliers. The company is certified under ISO 9002 and QS9000 standards. Autrans has operations in North America, Asia and Europe.

To date, Nissan production suppliers have announced investments of over \$200 million in new Mississippi manufacturing plants and service facilities. More than 2,000 new jobs are being created for Mississippi residents by Nissan suppliers.

In North America, Nissan's operations include automotive styling, engineering, consumer and corporate financing, sales and marketing, distribution and manufacturing. More information on Nissan in North America and the complete line of Nissan and Infiniti vehicles can be found online at www.nissandriven.com or contact the corporate media line at (310) 771-5631.

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